

REMARKS

This application was originally filed on 31 October 1999 with fifty-three claims, four of which were written in independent form. No claims have been allowed. Claims 1-14, 27-34, and 42 were amended on 4 August 2003. Claims 1, 14, 27, 35, 36 and 42 are amended herein.

Claims 1-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,939,785 to Klonis et al. ("Klonis") in view of JP60129139A to Matsuoka, as understood from the translation ("Matsuoka"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,591,379 to Shores ("Shores"). Claims 1-53 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-15 of Klonis, in view of Matsuoka and Shores. Claims 1-10, 14-23, 27, 31, 32, 35-50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,610,438 to Wallace et al. ("Wallace") in view of Matsuoka and Shores. The applicant respectfully disagrees.

The prior art of record does not show, teach, or suggest the classes of polymer binders remaining in the claims in combination with the additional limitations of the claims. Nor is there any suggestion to modify the teachings of the prior art to use the classes of polymer binders remaining in the claims.

In view of the amendments and the remarks presented herewith, it is believed that the claims currently in the application accord with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are allowable over the prior art of record. Therefore, it is urged that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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